

# The China Mail.

Established February, 1845.

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號九十月一十年七八百八千一英

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 1887.

日五十十年亥丁

PRICE, \$2 PER MONTH.

AGENTS FOR THE CHINA MAIL.

LONDON:—F. ALGAR, 11, & 12, Clement's Lane, Lombard Street, F. G. Gordon, Stretton & Co., 30, Cornhill, Gordon & Goron, London, E.C. Barth, Hendry & Co., 37, Walbrook, E.C. Samuel, Dragon, & Co., 150, & 154, Leadenhall Street, W. M. Wills, 161, Cannon Street, E.C. PARIS AND EUROPE:—AMEDEE PRINCE & Co., 38, Rue Lafayette, Paris. NEW YORK:—Andrew Wind, 21, Park Row. SAN FRANCISCO and American Ports generally:—Brain & Black, San Francisco. AUSTRALIA, TASMANIA, AND NEW ZEALAND:—Gordon & Gotch, Melbourne and Sydney. CEYLON:—W. M. SMITH & Co., The Apothecaries' Co., Colombo. SINGAPORE, STRAITS, &c.:—SAYER & Co., Square, Singapore. O. HEINZEN & Co., Manila. CHINA:—Macao, F. A. de Cruz, Serrato, Quilhao & Co., Amoy, N. Moalib, Foochow, Hedge & Co., Shanghai, Late, Crawford & Co., and Kelly & Walsh, Yokohama, Late, Chaword & Co., and Kelly & Co.

## Banks.

### NOTICE.

RULES OF THE HONGKONG SAVINGS' BANK.

1.—The business of the above Bank will be conducted by the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, on their premises in Hongkong. Business hours on week-days, 10 to 3; Saturday, 10 to 1.

2.—Sums less than \$1, or more than \$250 at one time will not be received. No depositor may deposit more than \$2,500 in any one year.

3.—Depositors in the Savings' Bank having \$100 or more at their credit may at their option transfer the same to the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation on fixed deposit for 12 months at 5 per cent, per annum interest.

4.—Interest at the rate of 3½ per cent, per annum will be allowed to depositors on their daily balance.

5.—Each Depositor will be supplied gratis with a Pass-Book which must be presented with each payment or withdrawal. Depositors must not make any entries themselves in their Pass-Books but should send them to be written up at least twice a year, about the beginning of January, and beginning of July.

6.—Correspondence as to the business of the Bank as marked on Hongkong Savings' Bank Business is forwarded free by the various British Post Offices in Hongkong and China.

7.—Withdrawals may be made on demand, but the personal attendance of the depositor or his duly appointed agent, and the production of his Pass-Book are necessary.

For the  
HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING  
CORPORATION,  
T. JACKSON,  
Chief Manager.

Hongkong, September 1, 1887. 754

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

PAID-UP CAPITAL, \$7,500,000  
RESERVE FUND, \$3,500,000  
RESERVE LIABILITY OF PRO-  
PRIETORS, \$7,500,000

COURT OF DIRECTORS:  
Chairman—O. D. BENTONLEY, Esq.  
Deputy Chairman—Hon. J. BELL IRVING,  
W. H. KIDNEY, Esq. Hon. A. P. MCKENZIE,  
H. L. DALRYMPLE, S. O. MICHAELSEN,  
Esq.  
W. H. FORBES, Esq. J. S. MORSE, Esq.  
H. HOPKINS, Esq. F. D. SANSON

Chief Manager:  
Hongkong:—THOMAS JACKSON, Esq.  
Manager:  
Shanghai:—EWEN CARMERON, Esq.  
London:—London and County  
Bank.

HONGKONG:  
INTEREST ALLOWED  
ON Current Deposit Account at the rate  
of 2 per cent, per annum on the daily  
balance.

ON Fixed Deposits:—  
For 3 months, 3 per cent, per annum.  
" 6 " 4 per cent, " "  
" 12 " 5 per cent, " "

LOCAL BILLS DISCOUNTED.  
Credit granted on approved Securities, and every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted.

Drafts granted on London, and the chief Commercial place in Europe, India, Australia, America, China and Japan.

T. JACKSON,  
Chief Manager.  
Hongkong, September 20, 1887. 363

## Intimations.

### WANTED.

A COMPETENT SUGAR-BOILER.  
Address with Reference.  
SUGAR REFINERY,  
Nanking.

24th November, 1887. 2289

THE HONGKONG AND KOWLOON  
WHARF AND GODOWN COM-  
PANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE is hereby given that all Vessels  
discharging BOMBAY COT-  
TON and COTTON YARN at the KOW-  
LOON WHARFS will have FREE STOREAGE  
for 14 days from arrival, after which a Rent  
of 3 CENTS per bale per month will be  
charged.

ISAAC HUGHES,  
Secretary.  
Hongkong, November 7, 1887. 2

J. D. KILEY,  
SAIL-MAKER.  
TENTS, AWNINGS AND  
FLAGS.

No. 23, Praya Central,  
HONGKONG.  
Hongkong, November 1, 1887. 2125

## Intimations.

### NOTICE.

MR. YEE ON, having LOST THE FIRST  
of EXCHANGE of a BANK BILL  
for £100, drawn at VEGETABLE CREEK  
BRANCH of the BANK of NEW SOUTH WALES  
at 30 days' sight on London Office of that  
Bank, requests any one to whom the First  
of Exchange is presented to refuse to buy  
the same.

Hongkong, November 23, 1887. 2317

ROBES ET CONFETIONS

FRENCH DRESS-MAKER.

MRS. G. HEYMANS,

35, WELLINGTON STREET,

HONGKONG.

THE ONLY FRENCH DRESS-MAKER  
IN HONGKONG.

DIPLOMA IN PARIS IN 1884.

Hongkong, October 1, 1887. 1925

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

No. 211.

CHINA SEA.

SHANGHAI DISTRICT.

TEMPORARY WITHDRAWAL OF THE TUNGSHA  
LIGHT-VESSEL.

NOTICE is hereby given that on or about  
the 5th December next, the Tungsha  
Light-boat will be REMOVED  
from her Station for REPAIRS, and that  
she will be Replaced by the light-boat  
Neuching.

The Neuching will show a fixed white  
light, which should be visible in clear  
weather at a distance of 11 nautical miles, and  
a small white light will be exhibited from  
the fore stay at a height of 6 feet above the  
rail, to show the direction in which the  
vessel is heading. Her hulls painted red,  
with the word Neuching in white on each  
side, and she has three masts, the main  
carrying a black flag.

During thick or foggy weather a steam  
 fog-horn will be sounded at intervals of 10  
seconds.

The Tungsha will return to her station  
as soon as her repairs have been completed.

By Order of the Inspector-General of  
Customs,

A. M. BISBEE,  
Coast Inspector.

Imperial Maritime Customs,  
Coast Inspector's Office,

Shanghai, 21st November, 1887. 2206

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR 1886.

SHAREHOLDERS are hereby requested  
to send in to this Office a List of their  
Contributions of Premium for the year  
ending 31st December last, in Order that the  
PROPORTION of PROFIT for that year  
to be Paid as BONUS to Contributors  
may be arranged. Returns not sent in  
before the 30th instant, will be made up  
by the Company, and no subsequent Claims  
or Alterations will be allowed.

By Order of the Directors,

JAS. B. COUGHTRE,

Secretary.

Hongkong, November 1, 1887. 2132

DENTISTRY.

FIRST CLASS WORKMANSHIP.

MODERATE FEES.

MR. WONG TAI-FONG,  
Surgeon Dentist.

Hongkong, November 1, 1887. 2132

CONSULTATION FREE.

Discount to Missionaries and families.

Sole Address:

2, DUDDELL STREET,

(Next to the New Oriental Bank.)

Hongkong, January 12, 1888. 66

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE  
COMPANY, LIMITED.

ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE YEAR 1886.

SHAREHOLDERS in the above Com-

pany are requested to furnish the  
Undersigned with a List of their Contri-

butions for the year ending 31st December

last, in Order that the DISTRIBUTION

of the PROFITS reserved for Contributors

may be arranged. Returns not rendered

prior to the THIRTEENTH DAY of NOVEMBER

next, will be adjusted by the Company,

and no Claims or Alterations will be sub-

sequently admitted.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,

General Managers,

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company,

Limited.

Hongkong, October 15, 1887. 2010

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned begs to inform her

numerous Customers and the General

public of HONGKONG and our Point Re-

sidents, that she is prepared to SUPPLY

FRESH MEAT, VEGETABLES, GAME,

BROWNS, GAME PIES, PORK SAU-

SAGES, &c., &c.

All Orders will have prompt and careful

attention.

LAVINIA HOPKINS,

Corners of Ningpo & Seochuen Roads,

SHANGHAI.

Shanghai, 1st November, 1887. 2124

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## To Let.

TO BE LET.

By the Owners.

SUITE OF ROOMS fronting the Praya and Pudding Street upon the Ground Floor of Building recently occupied by Messrs. MELBOURNE &amp; CO.

These Premises are well adapted for OFFICES or STORES.

ROOMS on the FIRST and SECOND FLOORS of Marine House.

BISNELL VILLA, POKFULUM.

A GODOWN, at BOWINGTON.

Apply to

SHARP &amp; CO.,

Estate Agents.

Marine House.

Hongkong, October 17, 1887. 2323

## TO BE LET.

WITH Possession on the 1st January, 1888. A HOUSE in RICHMOND TERRACE.

Apply to

MR. WILLMOTT,

Hongkong Dispensary.

Hongkong, November 3, 1887. 2150

## TO LET.

ROOMS in 'COLLEGE CHAMBERS.'

Apply to

DAVID SASSOON, SONS &amp; CO.

Hongkong, May 25, 1887. 504

## Intimations.

## WASHING BOOKS.

(In English and Chinese.) WASEHERMAN'S BOOKS, for the use of Ladies and Gentlemen, can now be had at this Office.—Price, 81 each.

CHINA MAIL OFFICE.

## SAILOR'S HOME.

A NY Out-of-CLOTHING, BOOKS, or PAPERS will be thankfully received at the Sailor's Home, West Point, Hongkong, July 25, 1887.

## N O W B E A D Y.

## PRICE, \$1.00.

COMPARATIVE CHINESE FAMILY LAW

By E. H. PARKER.

Can be obtained from KELLY &amp; WALSH at Shanghai and Hongkong, at LANE, CRAWFORD &amp; CO., Hongkong, and at the CHINA MAIL Office.

Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2122

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR YOKOHAMA AND KOBE.

## The Steamship

## Cambodia,

## Capt. WILDOOSE, will be

despatched for the above Ports TO-MORROW, the 30th Instant, at 3 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

RUSSELL &amp; CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2122

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY &amp; FOOCHOW.

## The Co.'s Steamship

## Name,

## Capt. GONDARD, will be

despatched for the above Ports on FRIDAY, the 2nd December, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK &amp; CO.,

General Manager.

Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2324

THE CHINA &amp; MANILA STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR MANILA (DIRECT).

## The Co.'s Steamship

## Zafiro,

## Captain TALBOT, will be

despatched for the above Port on SATURDAY, the 3rd December, at 4 p.m.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

RUSSELL &amp; CO.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2327

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FOR PORT DARWIN, SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE.

## The Co.'s Steamship

## Ching Yen,

## Capt. J. D. O. ARTHUR, Com-

mander, will be despatched as above on WEDNESDAY MORNING, the 7th Dec., at Daylight.

The attention of Passengers is directed to the Superior Accommodation offered by this Steamer. First-class Saloon and Cabins are situated, forward of the Engines. Second Class Passengers are berthed in the Poo. A Refrigerating Chamber ensures the supply of Fresh Provisions during the entire voyage. A duly qualified Surgeon is carried.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD &amp; SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2325

## OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR SHANGHAI VIA AMOY.

(Taking Cargos &amp; Passengers at through rates

## for NINGPO, OHEFOU, NEW-

## CHWANG, TIENTSIN, HANKOW

## Ports on the YANGTSEKWA.)

## The Co.'s Steamship

## Antenor,

## Capt. GRIER, will be

despatched as above on THURSDAY, the 8th Proximo.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD &amp; SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2328

## SPECTACLES.

Mr. N. LAZARUS, OCULIST OPTI-

## CLIAN, has arrived in Hongkong

from Shanghai and will remain a few days prior to his departure for Siam. Mr. LAZARUS will be pleased to see Ladies and Gentlemen requiring his Professional Assistance at the HONGKONG HOTEL Room

No. 6.

Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2329

## To-day's Advertisements.

## UNION LINE.

## NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

## FROM LONDON AND SINGAPORE.

THE Steamship Cambodia, Captain WILCOX, having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading to the Underwriters for countersignature, and to take immediate delivery of their Goods from alongside.

The Steamer is berthed at Kowloon Pier and Cargo impeding her discharge will be at once landed and stored at Consignees risk and expense, and no Fire Insurance will be effected.

All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Underwriters on or before the 6th December, or they will not be recognised.

RUSSELL &amp; CO., Agents.

Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2321

## TO BE LET.

WITH Possession on the 1st January, 1888. A HOUSE in RICHMOND TERRACE.

Apply to

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Hongkong, November 3, 1887. 2150

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Hongkong, November 20, 1887. 2328

## SPECTACLES.

Mr. N. LAZARUS, OCULIST OPTI-

## CLIAN, has arrived in Hongkong

from Shanghai and

MR. LAZARUS, the Optical Optician, who paid us a visit some time ago, has returned from Shanghai and is on his way to Siam. He intends remaining for a few days at the Hongkong Hotel, and will be glad to see any ladies and gentlemen who may wish to consult him.

The Band of the Northumbrian Regiment will play the following programme at the Officers' Mess, Murray Barracks, this evening, commencing at half-past seven o'clock:

March ..... "Pomp and circumstance" Newton,  
Quadrille ..... "Little Darling" Warwick,  
Olympia ..... "Warwick,  
Valse ..... "Burke's little blues" Farnham,  
Aria for Clarinet ..... "Lascivious Lassie" Donisthorpe,  
Selection ..... "Princess Ida" Sullivan,  
Selection ..... "Musical Bouquet" Garner.

An Indian watchman was tried in the Police Court to-day on a charge of purchasing a coat from a soldier, which he knew to be Government property. The evidence given was rather conflicting, but it would appear that Private Griffin and another soldier met the watchman and that they repaired to the stables of No. 1 Station where the coat was disposed of for the sum of £1. The coat had military buttons attached to it and could easily be recognised as Government property. The defendant said he had some hesitation about buying the coat and asked Indian Constable No. 649 if he might purchase it. The Constable said he could do so if he liked, and that the watchman need not be afraid so long as he was present. This, however, the Constable stoutly denied, and said he suspected that a coat was being sold and gave information about the matter. The soldier's companion—who is under punishment for selling his kit—declared that the Indian constable was present, and he said that he himself had sold all his kit to two Indian Constables in the same stables. The accused was sentenced to one month's hard labour. A searching inquiry ought, we think, to be made for the purpose of discovering whether Indian Constables have been guilty of the practices alleged against them by the soldiers.

THIEVING seems to have been carried on on a pretty extensive scale while the fire was raging last night. About a dozen men were brought up at the Police Court to-day, charged with stealing various articles, including a sewing machine, quilt, clock, boxes, several pieces of clothing &c. In one case five men were arrested in connection with the stowing away of a box the contents of which were valued at £60. Three of these men were convicted, two being sentenced to six weeks, and the third, against whom a previous conviction was recorded, to three months' hard labour. In the other case, with one exception, convictions were obtained and sentence of six weeks' hard labour was imposed. The exceptional case was that of a man who was charged in addition, with being in possession of a sword, and his case was remanded. One of the band of thieves took advantage of the alarm to clear out a hawker's stall, while another let his hand slip into the breast pocket of a Chinese military gentleman who was watching the fire, and drew out a pocket-handkerchief and two silver dollars. The military gentleman turned round at once and caught the thief, who had the audacity to propose that they should go to the other side of the street to settle the matter. Instead of doing this, however, the officer handed him to the Police. The thief, notwithstanding that he was caught in the act, had the impudence, at the Police Court to-day, to say it was some other man who had stolen the articles; and although only a week or two out of prison, he had great difficulty in remembering a previous conviction. The Magistrate, however, refreshed his memory and sent him to goal for six months.

A TELEGRAM in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, dated New York, October 22nd, states:—A cable despatch announces the death by drowning in a shipwreck of the coast of Madagascar of Remenyi, the Hungarian violinist, who spent some considerable time in the United States. We are inclined to doubt the truth of this telegram. It will be remembered that two or three months ago a report was published in several papers in the Far East to the effect that Mr. Remenyi had been shipwrecked and drowned while on the way to South Africa. Mention was made either of Mauritius or Madagascar as the place near which the shipwreck occurred. This report was contradicted; and, a few weeks after, news was received of Mr. Remenyi having arrived in South Africa. He gave a series of entertainments in Natal and Cape Colony, and was, we think, still in that part of the world when the last mail from South Africa left. It is quite possible he may, instead of going home, as was his intention, have gone across to Madagascar; and after all got shipwrecked and drowned; but it is equally probable that the American telegram is but a new version of the false rumour that was current in this quarter of the globe and which could just have had time to travel home. It will be noticed that the American telegram gives no indication as to when the shipwreck occurred.

Scandalo French papers call M. Wilson, the husband of President Gaye's daughter, the first son-in-law of France.

In Hindostan 3,000,000 of the better educated classes, constituting the brain of India, are now familiar with the English language.

A BOURBON ALMANACK is one of the latest efforts of an enterprising publisher, put out on the General's popularity. The almanack consists of a kind of glorification of the War Minister of France, every date in the calendar being filled up as far as possible with some incident bearing on his life. The almanack is compiled in a simple way, to a Wagner Calendar, published when Wagner was at its height. Some of the entries are unmercifully complimentary of the dates, proving quite the rich statement at "Caveat Bourguignon," receives his first prize at the lyric "General Bourguignon's mother-in-law's birth," and so on, until it is difficult not to believe that the almanack is intended as a skit rather than as a compliment.

THE NIGHT WATCHMAN bears on good authority that the rumours circulating in the Capital with regard to recent Korean affairs are groundless, and the Government fully believe that Russia has no intention to absorb Corea, as is believed.

THE VIGOR of 23rd October states that the Count visited Copenhagen with the view of taking decisive action in regard to Bulgarian affairs, and that he has formed an anti-German alliance between Russia, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Denmark. Other powers are expected to join the alliance.

IN ANNOUNCING the accomplishment of the Princess Beatrice at Balmoral Castle on the 26th October, the *Court Circular* mentions that this is the first instance of a member of the Royal family being born in Scotland since the year 1693. A bonfire was lighted on Craig-Gowran in the evening in honor of the birth.

THE HONG-KONG NEWS says:—The rival steamers across the Pacific have a fair opportunity of exhibiting their respective merits as regards speed, for the *Portuguese* left Vancouver, and the *Goode* San Francisco, on the same day, the 9th instant. The latter is the faster vessel of the two, so the test is hardly conclusive.

THE FIRE SEASON.

The season of fires seems now to have fairly set in, and with more than average severity. Last night the fire-extinguishing forces of the City were once more called into requisition, and rendered very efficient service in the suppression of a fire which at one time threatened to develop into a wholesale conflagration. The scene of the fire was in Wellington Street, a thoroughfare the narrowness of which greatly increases the danger and adds considerably to the difficulty of the work of the Fire Brigades. The outbreak which occurred about nine o'clock was in the upper floor of the house Number 107, which occupies the next but one to the corner site formed by the junction of Wellington Street with a narrow lane running down to Queen's Road, and its origin is believed to have been the accidental ignition of a quantity of reed-pith, a highly inflammable material used in the manufacture of sun-hats. Owing to the recent dry weather the wood-work of the house was in too good a condition for burning, and the flames spread very quickly throughout the whole of the building. In the course of a few minutes the house was blazing from top to bottom, and the wind that was blowing at the time was sufficient to send the flames across the street to the verandahs of the houses opposite, but, thanks to the watchfulness of the firemen, the danger to property on the south side of the street was soon averted. The house on the east side of that in which the fire originated caught fire almost simultaneously with its neighbour, and both were completely gutted in a short time, while the house on the west side also suffered to some extent, the upper storey being destroyed. The whole three houses were of the same design, being three-storeyed, and the ground floors of the two which were entirely burned were occupied as carpenter's shops, the stock of wood in which served to augment the fury of the fire. Some fear was entertained at first that the Star Hotel, the back of which adjoins the burning houses, would catch fire, but this danger was fortunately averted. It was about an hour before the fire was thoroughly put out, although twelve jets of water had been playing on it all that time. The Government engines 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were on the spot, each having a hose reel out, and the Volunteer Brigade engine had two reels at work.

IMPROVEMENT IN THE IRON AND STEEL TRADE.—Considering how small are the crumbs of comfort for which English merchants and manufacturers usually have to be thankful nowadays, the return of the iron and steel exports for the first three quarters of 1887 is a decidedly inspiring document. The return for the month of September shows an improvement of about 35 per cent over 1886, or 25 per cent over 1885. For the nine months the increase, though not so large as that for the single month, still amounts to the very substantial sum of £22,000,000 as compared with either of the two previous years. Moreover, the increase is not confined to one branch, but is spread—of course, in somewhat varying proportions—over every branch of the trade. As might have been expected, it is not in iron but in steel that the largest increase is shown. Malleable-steel, less than one million in value in 1886, is not very far short of two millions in 1887. One point the return bring out into strong relief—the unimportance, namely, to our ironmaster of the trade with the United States. For the nine months of 1883 it was only worth £246,000; and, even this year, in spite of the enormous network of new railways that is under construction, it still remains somewhat under a million. *St. James's Gazette.*

THE PLEASURES OF HANGING.—It these are to believe who have been more or less hanged, have been resuscitated and have narrated their experiences, the much-misunderstood victim of the law's extreme penalty is not wholly miserable. It would seem that even death *sui per se* has its ameliorating conditions or circumstances. One sufferer in the religious cause in France is said to have "complained" because he was called back to consciousness from an experience of surpassing delights, in which he enjoyed the pleasure of gazing upon the most beautiful scenery. The immediate sensation of pain is momentary; and it would appear not unlikely that, in our anxiety for the avoidance of needless agony to those we put to death judicially, we may be actually increasing their suffering and diminishing their pleasure. The instantaneous death have all the pain and little or none of the pleasure. Slowly induced congestion of the brain may be the least painful, and if only the blood pressure be effectively raised at the centre that sees, the beauty and charm of scenery are enjoyed in the highest perfection. The subject is a grim one and we are not sure that the new view of hanging experience tends to make the death penalty increasingly deterrent, but it is right that both sides of a question which the late Mr. Whalley once excited the attention of the House of Commons by describing as "a poor man's question" should be carefully considered at all costs.

THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT has ordered from the port of Le Havre two torpedo-boats of greatest high speed for the lump sum of £4,000,000 francs.

A VERY gallant blind man in Paris succeeds in obtaining alms by exclaiming to each woman who passes: "Ah, madame, pity me! Have pity on a poor blind man who is deprived of the privilege of seeing you!"

THE VIGOR of 23rd October states that the Count visited Copenhagen with the view of taking decisive action in regard to Bulgarian affairs, and that he has formed an anti-German alliance between Russia, Belgium, Holland, Sweden and Denmark. Other powers are expected to join the alliance.

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IN ANNOUNCING the accomplishment of the Princess Beatrice at Balmoral Castle on the 26th October, the *Court Circular* mentions that this is the first instance of a member of the Royal family being born in Scotland since the year 1693. A bonfire was lighted on Craig-Gowran in the evening in honor of the birth.

THE HONG-KONG NEWS says:—The rival steamers across the Pacific have a fair opportunity of exhibiting their respective merits as regards speed, for the *Portuguese* left Vancouver, and the *Goode* San Francisco, on the same day, the 9th instant. The latter is the faster vessel of the two, so the test is hardly conclusive.

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THE ARGUMENT in each of these two vessels is the same, the main armament consisting of three 8 inch guns and two 6-inch guns; the minor armament consisting of eight six-pounder Hotchkiss, two three-pounder, eight one-pounder and six Gatlings. The two of the largest guns are placed on a turn mounting forward and the other aft, while the two six-inch guns are mounted on one side amidships. The machinery is in both cases proved highly satisfactory, as also did the trial trip, when a mean speed of a little over eighteen and a half knots was attained. The Stettin-built vessels have each a displacement of 3,100 tons, and carry two 21-centimetre and two six-inch guns, besides a fair auxiliary armament. Their mean speed is 16 knots.

THE VESSELS are excellent specimens of their kind, and are abundantly justified by the very favourable criticism which has been bestowed on them by naval authorities, but although all the resources of naval architecture and engineering still have been called into requisition for the purpose of making them as complete and efficient as possible, they do not to the eye of the spectator present any absolutely new features. Perhaps the most striking thing in connection with them, regarding them as Chinese men-of-war, is after all, that which everybody would be prepared to expect—the fact that there is nothing essentially Chinese about them, except it be the gilded dragon on the bows and the yellow flag flying at the peak. After the long voyage which they have just accomplished, and during which they behaved in a manner worthy of the reputation of their builders, it would be too much to expect that they should present the sickle-and-sabre appearance of vessels that have been lying in port for some time. They all bear a greater or less extent evidence of the rough weather which they experienced on the run from Singapore to Hongkong, and it will take a few days to put them into the proper trim for being admired by visitors. The worst sufferer from the weather is the large torpedo boat, *Yarrow*, which accompanies the four vessels already referred to, her good looks having been considerably damaged.

A glance at the vessels is sufficient to show that *Yarrow* has been spared in the endeavour to put them on a footing of equality with, if not of superiority, the best of their class afloat. They have by no means the look of scientific abortions such as it has been said more than one of our own war-vessels are still, and such as, also, a few have proved themselves to be. It is pretty clear, indeed, that a great deal of pains has been taken to render them thoroughly serviceable, as, no doubt, they will show themselves to be, with proper handling, should the occasion arise.

The flagship, *Chi-Yuen*, and the sister-ship, *Hsi-Yuen*, have each a displacement of 2,300 tons. They are 265 feet in length, 38 feet in breadth and 21 feet in depth from the main deck to the keel, with a draught of 16 feet and 14 feet forward. They are each supplied with triple expansion engines, and the engine and boiler-rooms are divided into watertight compartments by transverse and longitudinal bulkheads, the machinery being arranged so that either engine may be worked by any one of the boilers or, and the graminey was quickly taken and the graminey was surrounded by a force of police and soldiers. Some of the robbers, however, refused to surrender, and took refuge on the roof of the building, whence they discharged fire-arms and threw tiles at every one who approached. Two soldiers received gun-shot wounds, and two more were injured by tiles. At last, on the arrival of additional troops, the capture of the robbers was effected. The vessels are, of course, steel, and are two-decked. The lower deck, which protects the engine, magazines, steering gear, &c, is of "turtle-back" shape and consists of steel plates four inches thick. The ships are provided with double bottoms, the spaces between the two bottoms being divided into a large number of watertight compartments. The bows are of the "ram" design.

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#### CORRESPONDENCE.

#### PREVENTION OF ARSON.

To the Editor of the "CHINA MAIL."

SIR,—I beg to suggest a system of putting a stop to Policy-holders attempting to set fire to their premises. If the local Fire Insurance Companies would come to an understanding that, in all cases of fire, the full value insured will not be paid, and if they would draw up a sliding-scale of deductions something like the following I think we should hear of far less fires than was published in the *Gazette* of the 10th October.

PRANCE AND RUSSIA AGAINST THE NEW TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

The Spectator thus concludes an article on this subject:—Suppose, however, that the worst fears of those who are watching European politics are realised, and Russia and France are pitted against Germany and Austria, and possibly Italy,—what is likely to be the outcome of such a struggle? To begin with, the front of the battle must fall on Germany, for she will be subject to attacks from both her antagonists, whereas Austria will only be open to a Russian army.

Germany, then, will have to divide her forces into two, to strike with both hands at once, but at different foes. It is, of course, impossible to conquer Russia in the sense that France can be conquered. All the army recruits are so ill-trained that they are of an inferior physique to what they were twenty-five years ago.

Amongst the proportion of rejections is high; but the exact cause of this is not known.

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## Intimations.

## THE CHINA REVIEW.

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY, NINTH YEAR.

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SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO,  
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E. L. WOODIN,  
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